

## **E-Rate Update for May 8, 2017 ACTEM Business Meeting**

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### **1. FY2017 FCC Form 471**

The FY2017 Form 471 filing window will close at 11:59 PM EDT on Thursday, May 11.

If you can file a Form 471 – meaning nothing in EPC is preventing you from doing so and your 28 day competitive bidding waiting period has expired – you should not wait.

PIA reviews should begin soon after the window closes. PIA will occur within EPC. There will be no email communication with your reviewer. All questions and responses will be submitted within EPC.

Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) will also be issued in EPC. You should be emailed both by the system and by me when you have an FRN in a funding wave. You will then log into EPC to retrieve your FCDL. USAC is hopeful that FCDLs will be issued more quickly for FY2017 than happened in FY2016.

Go to the Networkmaine E-Rate site at <http://networkmaine.net/erate/EPC/EPC.htm> for more information.

### **2. FCC Form 486**

After you go through PIA review and receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter, you will need to file a Form 486 to indicate the start of services. The form must be certified no later than 120 days after the service start date or 120 days after the date of the FCDL, whichever is later.

### **3. FCC Form 498**

If this is your first year filing for E-Rate, you will need to file a Form 498 in order to receive direct deposit BEAR reimbursements. In addition to filing the form in EPC, you will also need to submit substantiating information to verify the banking information, such as a cancelled check. Failure to do so will result in your BEAR forms not being processed. Once confirmed, you will receive a 498ID to use on your BEARs.

If you have already filed a Form 498 and have a 498ID, you do not need to file another form. You will continue to use your existing 498ID when filing BEARs.

### **4. BEAR Forms**

BEARs will continue to be filed in the existing BEAR applicant login area (not in EPC). Once you have an FCDL and have filed a Form 486, you may file BEARs (monthly, quarterly, once a year).

The deadline for FY2016 BEARs (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) is October 28, 2017.

The deadline for FY2017 BEARs (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) is October 28, 2018.